grant-in-aid of Rs. 3570.69 lakhs to Union Government for providing post-matric scholarship for the welfare of primitive Tribes and Scheduled Castes people;

(b) whether Government has sanctioned the proposal of giving balance of Rs. 742.79 lakhs to the State Government;

(c) the present status of the proposal; and

(d) by when the above said amount is likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) No proposal for release of Rs. 3570.59 lakhs has been received. However, central assistance of Rs. 695.98 lakhs and Rs. 583.41 lakhs respectively have been released to Madhya Pradesh Government by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs under the Post Matric Scholarship schemes during the year 2007-08.

Exclusion of creamy layer from SC quota

1056. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Valmiki Community in the North, comprising of Scavangers and Safai Karamcharies, is now demanding exclusion of the creamy layer from SC Quota and claiming for a separate quota within the SC quota for Valmikis and Ati-dalit castes;

(b) whether courts had earlier stuck down the provisions for categorization of quota within quota as unconstitutional; and

(c) the steps Government proposes to take on this issue raised by Valmikis and Ati-dalits in the larger interest of equitable justice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No such representation has been received in the recent past.

(b) The Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Castes (Rationalization of Reservation) Act, 2000 was struck down by the Supreme Court on 05.11.2004. Likewise the Notification dated 09.11.1994 of the State Governemnt of Haryana reserving 50% posts amongst Scheduled Castes in Haryana for Block 'A' consisting of 36 Scheduled Castes and 50% for Block 'B' consisting of Chamars, Jatia Chamars, Rahgars, Raigars, Ramadasias or Ravidasias, was quashed by the High Court of Punjab and Haryana.

(c) Does not arise.

Assistance to disabled persons

1057. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that handicapped persons are facing difficulties in obtaining certificates and pensions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;